

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1–10 are pending in the above-captioned application. Claims 1 and 4–10 stand rejected, while claims 2 and 3 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. With this paper, claims 1 and 3 have been amended, and claim 2 has been canceled. No new matter was added with the amendment.

I. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1 and 4–10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Mehta et al. (US 6,306,590). Waters et al. (*Microchip Device for Cell Lysis, Multiplex PCR Amplification, and Electrophoretic Sizing*. *Anal Chem.* 1998 Jan 1; 70(1): pages 158–162) was also cited as a reference of interest. In light of these references, claims 2 and 3 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were judged to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

This has been done with respect to claim 2. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 2 (less than about 0.4% polymer) in place of the original limitation (less than about 0.5% polymer), thereby placing claim 1 in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 as being unpatentable over Mehta et al. (US 6,306,590) is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 2 has been canceled. Claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 1, rather than from the canceled claim 2. Thus, claims 3–10 now depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth herein with respect to amended claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 3–10 as being unpatentable over Mehta et al. (US 6,306,590) is therefore respectfully requested.

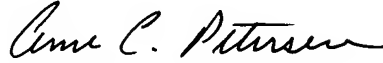
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone

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Tammy Burd-Mehta
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conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Signed: _____

